

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process cartridge having first and second sides and a bottom portion and being configured to be detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus, said cartridge comprising:

a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said first or second guide portion faces ~~one of~~ an inner wall of the image forming apparatus ~~and or~~ another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said first or second guide portion is configured to guide ~~said~~ another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said first or second guide portion is configured to slidably engage with a portion of another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein a shape of said guide first and second portion varies in shape in accordance with portions

depends on a location of said first and second guide ~~portion~~ portions in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein a configuration of said first and second guide ~~portion~~ portions is one of being separately formed from said housing ~~and or~~ being integrated with said housing.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image transfer mechanism; and
a process cartridge having first and second sides and a bottom portion and being configured to be detachably mounted, the process cartridge comprising:
a photoconductive element; and
a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image transfer mechanism; and
a plurality of process cartridges detachably mounted to said image forming apparatus, each ~~one process cartridge~~ of the plurality of process cartridges being arranged parallel to the others and forming an image ~~for of~~ a single color, each of the process cartridges having first and second sides and a bottom portion and comprising:
a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction.

Claim 9 (Original): A process cartridge detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus, said cartridge comprising:

image carrying means for carrying an image; and

housing means for housing said image carrying means, said housing means further comprising guiding means for guiding the process cartridge.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said guiding means faces one of an inner wall of the image forming apparatus ~~and~~ or another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 11 (Original): The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said guiding means guides another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein said guiding means slidably engages with a portion of another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein a shape of said guiding means ~~varies in shape in accordance with~~ depends on a location of said guiding means in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge according to Claim 9, wherein a configuration of said guiding means is one of being separately formed from said housing means ~~and~~ or being integrated with said housing means.

Claim 15 (Original): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image forming means; and
a process cartridge detachably mounted therein, the process cartridge comprising:
image carrying means for developing an image; and
housing means for housing said image carrying means, said housing means further comprising guiding means for guiding the process cartridge.

Claim 16 (Original): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image forming means; and
a plurality of process cartridges, each process cartridge of said plurality being detachably mounted to said image forming apparatus, being arranged in parallel to the other cartridges, and being configured to form an image for a single color, each of the process cartridges comprising:
image carrying means for developing an image; and
housing means for housing said image carrying means, said housing means further comprising guiding means for guiding the process cartridge.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of providing a process cartridge having first and second sides and a bottom portion and being configured to be detachably mounted in an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:
providing a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said storing further comprises arranging said first or second guide portion to face ~~one of~~ an inner wall of the image forming apparatus ~~and or~~ another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said first or second guide portion is configured to guide another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said first or second guide portion is configured to slidably engage with a portion of another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 17, wherein a shape of said first or second guide portion ~~varies in shape in accordance with~~ depends on a location of said first or second guide portion in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 17, wherein a configuration of said first or guide portion is one of being separately formed from said housing ~~and or~~ being integrated with said housing.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method of making an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

providing an image transfer mechanism; and

providing a process cartridge having first and second sides and a bottom portion and being configured to be detachably mounted in said image forming apparatus, the process cartridge comprising:

a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method of making an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

providing an image transfer mechanism; and

providing a plurality of process cartridges, each process cartridge of said plurality being detachably mounted to said image forming apparatus, being arranged in parallel to the other cartridges, and being configured to form an image ~~for~~of a single color, each one of the process cartridges having first and second sides and a bottom portion and comprising:

a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising a guide portion configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide being disposed on the first side of the process

cartridge on a first location and the second guide being disposed on the second side of
the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to
a vertical direction.